



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

HAZARDOUS WASTE COMMISSION - CHAIRMAN

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Committees
Natural Resources and
Agriculture
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Public Safety
ROOM 489, STATE HOUSE
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July 20, 1981

Mr. Frank Ciavattieri
Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
Municipal Facilities Division
23rd Floor
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Ciavattieri:

As the New Bedford senior representative in the Massachusetts Legislature, and in my capacity as chairman of the body's Sub-committee on Lobsters, Shellfish, and Fisheries, I am writing to solicit your assistance in determining the nature and extent of P.C.B. pollution in the New Bedford Harbor.

As you may be aware, the harbor was closed to fishing activities in 1977 when high levels of that substance were found; since that time there has been ongoing pressure to reopen the area.

The tests upon which several closures were based were designed to detect only the presence of compound 1254. Subsequent revelations indicate that the harbor also has been heavily laden with debris which in all likelihood contain compound 1016. Other P.C.B. compound formulas are also known to be present in these closure areas. My question is this: If the federal level of 5ppm constitutes the maximum level of P.C.B. contamination level and seeing that all tests have been based on one formula (1254), should other formulas be evaluated? And then should we then use a P.C.B. congregate formula?

I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this situation, and anxiously await your response.

Sincerely,

ROGER R. GOYETTE
State Representative

RRG/llt